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Report on the New York Convention

Mariological Society of America

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REPORT ON THE NEW YORK CONVENTION

THE Third National Convention of The Mariological Society of America was held at the Statler Hotel in New York City on Thursday and Friday, January 3 and 4, 1952. The first general assembly was called to order promptly at 10:30 A. M. After brief introductory remarks, the president called on the Right Rev. Msgr. John M. A. Fearn, Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, to extend the official welcome to the guests in behalf of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, under whose gracious auspices the Convention was being held. Monsignor Fearn's cordial welcome was immediately followed by a profound and learned dissertation on *The Nature of Mary's Spiritual Maternity*, by the Canadian mariologist, Father Wenceslaus Sebastian, O.F.M., of Edmonton, Alberta. The paper gave rise to a long and animated discussion which, unfortunately, had to be interrupted at 12:30 to meet the demands of the schedule.

The afternoon session, which began at two o'clock, opened with a lengthy and very erudite paper on *The Teaching of the Magisterium Concerning Mary's Spiritual Maternity* by Father George W. Shea, of Darlington, N. J. After the usual discussion period there followed a scholarly treatment of *The Scriptural Basis for Mary's Spiritual Maternity* by Father Eric May, O.F.M.Cap., of Marathon, Wis. At five o'clock Marian Devotions were held in St. Francis of Assisi Church during which His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester and Episcopal Chairman of the Society, gave an inspiring talk to the vast congregation.

The first general assembly on the second day of the Convention began at ten o'clock in the morning with an excellent dissertation on *The Spiritual Maternity of Our Lady in Tradition*. The speaker was the well-known theologian, Father

William R. O'Connor, of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. Like the other papers, this too was followed by a very profitable exchange of views among the guests. At 11:30 the members of the Society separated into four groups to attend the following elective seminars: *The Spiritual Maternity in De Montfort's Doctrine*, by the Very Rev. Frank A. Setzer, S.M.M. (discussion leader: the Rev. Roger M. Charest, S.M.M.); *Dogmatic Foundation of Ven. William Chaminade's Teaching on Filial Piety*, by the Rev. Francis Friedel, S.M. (discussion leader: the Very Rev. Peter A. Resch, S.M.); *Our Lady's Queenship in the Sacred Liturgy*, by the Rev. Kenneth B. Moore, O.Carm. (discussion leader: the Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R.); and *Theologians and the Praise of Mary*, by the Rev. Andrew C. Geary, O.P. (discussion leader: the Rev. Vincent M. Martin, O.P.).

At two o'clock in the afternoon the guests gathered again in the general assembly hall to hear the distinguished Jesuit theologian, Father Cyril Vollert, discuss *The Place of Our Lady in the Mystical Body*. As in the case of the speakers who preceded him, Father Vollert's penetrating analysis met with a very enthusiastic appraisal on the part of the audience. The last session of the Convention was devoted to the business meeting and the election of officers. During the business meeting new members were admitted to the Society, various appointments were made, and a letter was read by the Secretary announcing the Marian Award to be offered annually to seminarians. The text of the letter follows:

Rectors and Superiors of theological seminaries, houses of study or colleges are respectfully asked to bring the following announcement to the attention of theological students.

The Mariological Society of America, meeting for its Annual Convention in New York, January 3 and 4, 1952, announced plans to award three prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 to the authors of the best three papers of about 6,000 words on Mariology.

Report on the New York Convention

7

Competitors for these awards must be regularly enrolled members of theological seminaries, houses of study or colleges. Each paper must be submitted accompanied by a letter from a faculty member who can attest that the author of the paper is presently engaged in graduate or undergraduate theological studies.

All seminarians, diocesan or religious, are invited to compete. Awards will be announced at the next annual convention in January, 1953. A board of judges approved by the society will decide the winners. The subject for this year's competitive paper is "The Divine and Spiritual Motherhood of Mary."

The purpose of these awards is to encourage scientific theological study of Catholic dogma concerning the Blessed Mother and to stimulate solid devotion to Her among future priests. The awards are made possible through a gift, for these express purposes, of an anonymous client of Mary.

Papers should be neatly typed or clearly handwritten and sent to the office of the president of the society, Holy Cross Friary, 600 Sound View Avenue, Bronx 72, New York, on or before October 1, 1952.

The Mariological Society reserves the right to publish in a theological periodical the winning papers. Contestants should have the possibility of publication in mind in preparing their papers and in submitting bibliography.

The matter of the awards having been properly explained to the guests, Father William R. O'Connor, chairman of the nominating committee, proceeded to submit the re-election of the same officers for an additional two year term. The committee's nomination was unanimously endorsed by the members of the Society. Thereupon, Father Francis J. Connell, our vice-president, on behalf of His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Episcopal Chairman, announced that a Marian Award for Priests (as distinct from the seminarian's award) would be conferred annually upon an active member of the Society in recognition of some important contribution to the field of Mariology. By unanimous vote of a special com-

mittee, the first recipient of this award (\$100.00) was the Reverend Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., president of the Society. Having expressed his deep appreciation to Bishop Wright and to his committee, Father Carol thanked all those who had in any way contributed to the splendid success of the Convention and brought the meeting to a close at 4 o'clock, P. M.